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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 093316

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 SAM-01 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/J:RMDEMING
APPROVED BY EA:WHGLEYSTEEN
EA/J - WCSHERMAN
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O 162352Z APR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 093316

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JA
SUBJECT: CIA ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN
1. JAPANESE EMBASSY COUNSELOR HAZUMI CAME IN AFTERNOON OF APRIL 16 TO SEE JAPAN COUNTRY DIRECTOR SHERMAN WITH A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR "NO COMMENT" POSITION ON ALLEGATIONS ABOUT CIA ACTIVITY IN JAPAN. HE NOTED THAT EARLIER IN THE DAY THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE HAD ANNOUNCED TO THE PRESS THAT THE CIA HAD INFORMED IT THAT THE AGENCY WAS NOT AWARE OF THE ALLEGED PAYOFFS BY LOCKHEED THROUGH KODAMA TO JAPANESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, THAT THERE WAS NO CIA INVOLVEMENT IN LOCKHEED'S ALLEGED PAYMENTS, AND THAT THE AGENCY HAD NOT UTILIZED DEAK CO. TO TRANSMIT FUNDS TO JAPANESE OFFICIALS AND PARTIES. HAZUMI SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THIS STATEMENT IT WOULD "BE EMBARRASSING" IF THE GOJ RECEIVED A "NO COMMENT" RESPONSE FROM THE USG ON THE SAME QUESTION. HAZUMI ALSO NOTED THAT THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE STATEMENT ADDRESSED ONLY THE LOCKHEED-CIA CONNECTION AND DID NOT COMMENT ON THE CHARGES BY ROGER HILSMAN THAT THE AGENCY HAD PAID MONEY TO "ONE OR MORE" JAPANESE POLITICAL PARTIES. HAZUMI SAID THAT DENIAL OF THE FIRST ALLEGATION
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PAGE 02 STATE 093316

AND SILENCE ON THE SECOND WOULD TEND TO CONFIRM IN THE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

EYES OF THE JAPANESE PUBLIC THE VALIDITY OF THE LATTER CHARGE. HE THEN ASKED IF WE COULD CONSIDER STATING OFFICIALLY THAT "THERE IS NO RECORD AVAILABLE WHICH INDICATES THAT CIA SUPPLIED MONEY TO POLITICAL PARTIES IN JAPAN."

2. SHERMAN RESPONDED THAT DESPITE THE STATEMENT BY THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE AND THE EARLIER STATEMENT BY CIA ALONG THE SAME LINES HE FELT CONFIDENT THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT RPT NOT CHANGE ITS PRINCIPLE OF NOT COMMENTING ON MATTERS INVOLVING INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES. NEITHER WOULD WE TAKE ISSUE WITH REPORTED CIA STATEMENTS TO SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE.

3. FYI. IN FACT SENATE COMMITTEE SPOKESMAN DID MAKE STATEMENT REPORTED BY HAZUMI DESPITE CIA INJUNCTION AGAINST PUBLIC RELEASE OF THIS INFORMATION. WE, OF COURSE, WILL NOT CONTRADICT THIS STATEMENT, BUT PENDING FINAL DETERMINATION NEXT WEEK WE REMAIN CONVINCED THAT WE SHOULD MAINTAIN THE POSITION THAT WE DO NOT COMMENT. END FYI. ROBINSON

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